



It Takes a City

Bridging LEAs to Resources for Enhanced Student Outcomes

AGENCIES

- **Child and Family Services Agency**
- **Re-Engagement Center**



District of Columbia Child and Family Services Agency (CFSA)



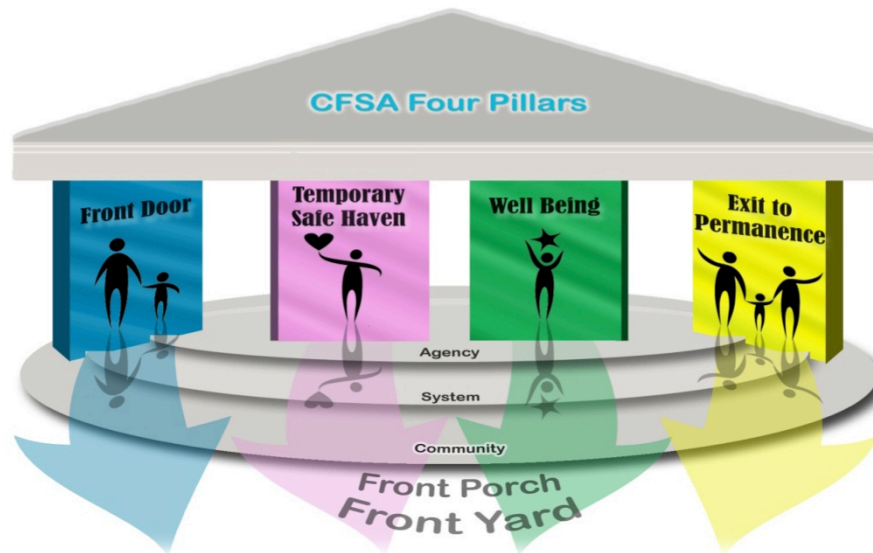
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District of Columbia Office of the State Superintendent of Education
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Child and Family Services Agency

- To improve the safety, permanence, and well being of abused and neglected children in the District of Columbia and to strengthen their families.
- CFSA is the child welfare **agency**. The child welfare **system** is composed of numerous public and private organizations partnering together.
- The Four Pillar Strategic Agenda guides our practice.



Who We Serve

As of October 22, 2014:

Number of children declined 12% - 15% in each of the past three years

Total children/youth = **2,893**

In home = 1,775 (61%)

Out of home = 1,118 (39%)

Ages:
50% 12 or older

Males/Females:
50/50

African-American = 94%
All other races = 6%

- 676 foster children enrolled in school this year
 - 325 special education
 - 209 DCPS
 - 139 DC Charter
 - 182 PG County
 - 60%-70% of DCPS and Charter foster youth not proficient based on DC CAS scores



Programs and Services

CFSA has four key functions

- **Take and Investigate Reports:** CFSA Child Protective Services (CPS) is the gateway to the local public child protection system. CPS takes reports of known or suspected child abuse and neglect of youngsters up to age 18 in the District 24 hours a day 365 days a year at 202-671-SAFE.
- **Assist Families:** In child welfare, serving the primary clients—children—means helping their parents or caretakers. When CFSA identifies child victims of abuse or neglect, trained social workers step in to keep children safe by working with their families. Social workers connect families to services that can help them overcome long-standing difficulties that endanger their children.
- **Provide Foster Care:** When a home presents too much danger, CFSA temporarily removes children to safe settings. 80% of children and youth in DC foster care are in family settings. CFSA recruits, trains, and licenses foster parents and also licenses, monitors, and maintains contracts with group homes and foster care providers. Only 4% of DC's foster youth are in group settings, below the national average of 6%.
- **Re-establish Permanence:** Children grow up best in a family. CFSA works to ensure every child and youth leaves the system to return safely to parents, to go to a permanent home with relatives or others through legal guardianship, or to join a new family through adoption.



Child and Family Services Agency

Key Practices and Initiatives

- Trauma Informed System
- Comprehensive education strategy
 - Use of Blueprint for Change developed by ABA Center for Children and the Law, Center for Foster Care and Education
 - A framework to help child welfare agencies guide education success for children in foster care (see handout)
 - Set of recommendations around the following six areas: Policy, Training and Resources, Practice Change, Internal Capacity and Staffing, External Coordination and Data Sharing
- Ensuring what we are doing is leading to good outcomes – CAFAS and PECFAS

Education Supports for Kids in Care

- Screening at the front door (ASQ and ASQ-SE) and referrals to Strong Start and Early Stages
- Monitoring of education by social workers, GALs and AAGs
- Education Unit in Office of Well Being to provide specialized support (tutoring, mentoring and transportation services for school stability) and to collaborate with all education agencies on access to data, special education and enrollment
- Office of Youth Empowerment to support college readiness and career development



Child and Family Services Agency

Collaboration

- Truancy Referrals – Education Triage Unit to collaborate on increased referrals
- Office of Well Being collaborates with OSSE, DCPS, Charter Board and PG County

Future Collaboration

- Better communication when youth enter care if staying in same school or moving to a new school and ongoing communication – central points of contact
- Better data sharing to support better educational outcomes
- Partnering with CFSA on education strategy

Who to Contact

- Abuse or Neglect – Hotline 202-671-SAFE (mandatory reporting)
- Education Triage Unit (pending education neglect referrals)
 - Joseph Osiecki - 202-727-7807
- Office of Well Being – any other education concern
 - Tim Fitzgerald (K-5) – Education Specialist 727-8028
 - Charlotte Williams (6-8) – Education Specialist 715-7787
 - Cortni Mitchell-Colson (9-12) – Education Specialist 727-4951



Youth Re-Engagement Center



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DC's Crisis of Connection

- Approximately 7,500 youth ages 16 to 24 out-of-school without a HS diploma or equivalent.
 - Weak or non-entry into workforce
 - Far less chance to earn family supporting wage, earn credentials suited for 21st century workforce
 - Future high levels of dependence on public systems
- Although DCPS' Student Placement Office, CFSA, DYRS, and hosts of individual programs provide reconnection services:
 - Efforts and data are largely uncoordinated
 - Overall capacity cannot meet the general public's need and individual agency/program staff capacity are often maxed out
 - Partners often lack access to uniform and up-to-date information about the range of referral options for education and non-academic services



The Opportunity

- Establishing the DC REC provides opportunities to:
 - Send a positive public message about the importance the District places on re-engagement of disengaged youth
 - Establish a high-profile program to direct youth to for re-engagement services and around which to organize the District's re-engagement efforts
 - Co-locate with other services to address barriers to re-engagement
 - Launch virtual outreach and re-engagement methods that may suit significant numbers of media-savvy youth and young adults from an established platform and location



DC Re-Engagement Center 101

- Who?
 - District youth (ages 16 to 24) who dropped out of school and who have not yet attained high school diploma/GED
- What?
 - Conduct targeted outreach; accept referrals and walk-ins
 - Assessment of academic and non-academic needs
 - Refer to good-fit options towards attaining HS Diploma/GED
 - Support re-enrollment process
 - Provide ongoing support for at least one year post-enrollment (including connection to non-academic services to support academic success)
- Where?
 - Co-located at DOES Headquarters – well-known by youth, in high-needs neighborhood, train/bus accessible, access to work-preparation/ placement services
 - Virtual platform in development



DC REC Educational Partnerships

- DCPS Student Placement Office and specific DCPS schools (primarily adult and alternative programs)
- DC Public Charter Schools (primarily adult and alternative programs)
- Community Based Adult Education Providers



DC REC Non-Academic Partnerships

- Department of Employment Services (DOES)– REC Specialists have been trained by DOES to connect REC youth to DOES's Virtual One Stop system (VOS) and employment recruitment events through DOES's Business Services Group. Further programmatic collaboration is currently being discussed as part of the WIOA youth program redesign.
- Department of Human Services (DHS) – REC Specialists have been trained by DHS on the different benefits DHS offers (TANF, SNAP, etc...) and what the eligibility requirements are. REC Specialists will be able to screen youth for these benefits and, when applicable, the Specialists will collect all required documentation and transfer the application to our DHS point of contact and work with that point of contact to ensure successful enrollment in the programs.
- Department of Behavioral Health (DBH) – REC Specialists have been trained by DBH on how to flag youth who may be in need of mental health/substance abuse services and, when applicable, the Specialists will collect all required documentation and work with our DBH point of contact to ensure successful connection to the needed services.



DC REC Non-Academic Partnerships (Continued)

- Department of Transportation (DDOT) – The REC has been given a school code and REC specialists will be trained by DDOT in the coming weeks on how to get eligible youth “enrolled” in the REC which will allow the REC to provide the youth with a

DC One Card and the free metro-bus transportation and reduced metro-rail rates for students.

empowered to determine eligibility and provide vouchers directly to youth. The DC Office of Early Childhood Education (ECE) – REC specialists have been trained to use the card and have been able to provide vouchers directly to youth. The

- Additionally, the REC has initiated referral relationships with many of these to find available childcare slots throughout the city.
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What The REC Can Offer Schools

- The REC will support enrollment by connecting youth back to the District's public and publicly funded educational options and support the enrollment and onboarding process.
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The REC will support schools with added case management support for the students that the REC refers back to schools.

- The REC can pilot partnerships with District agencies and community based organizations to identify successful approaches to providing

when a student is identified as in need of such services. The REC can work with schools as a rapid response system for students

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DUE TO CAPACITY, THE REC IS

